(b) The Group has been making recommendations to RBI from time to time. Some of the recommendations made by the Group covering areas like relaxation in broad investments opportunities available to RRBs, relaxation in branch licensing policy frame work, as also operational issues such as consortium lendings, relaxation in housing loans, fixation of interest rates to cover costs and application of asset classification, income recognition and provisioning norms have since been accepted by RBI for implementation.

INSAT-2A

6218. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Inter-Institute Communication network working through INSAT-2B has been snapped and the task has been transferred to INSAT-2A Satellite;

(b) if so, whether the research institute and Scientific Communication will not face serious problem jeopardizing our research;

(c) whether INSAT-2C will go only to Multinational Companies and Private Sectors;

(d) whether the Government would allow Inter-Institute Communications through INSAT-2C in the national interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The Education and Research Network (ERNET) link which was working through INSAT-2B was transferred to INSAT-2A for operational reasons as the particular transponder handling this link failed.

(b) There is no impact on the network itself except for a short term outrage due to transfer operations.

(c) INSAT-2C is being used by Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and National Informatics Centre. DOT has licensed private Very Small Apperture Terminal (VSAT) service providers to operate through two transponders in Extended C-band.

(d) and (e) INSAT System has four satellites in operation and individual networks are assigned particular satellites depending on technical requirements, operational plans and technical compatibility between networks sharing a satellite. The technical characteristics of INSAT-2C and INSAT-2A communication transponders are the same. It does not therefore make any difference whether ERNET operates through INSAT-2C or INSAT-2A.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds

6219. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evolved any criteria for providing employment to the dependents of those who expired while in central Government service, within a specified time period;

(b) the number of such cases where job is not provided within one year during the last three years and also the total number of cases where employment is not provided even after three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to avoid such delay ?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Under the existing scheme, appointment on compassionate grounds of a dependent of a Govt. servant who dies in harness depends, among other things, on the availability of a vacancy for that purpose. This stand of the Govt. has been supported by the Supreme Court rulings in the case of Himachal Road Transport Corporation V. Shri Dinesh Kumar dt. 7.5.96 (JT 1996 (5) SC 319) and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Vs. Smt. A. Radhika Thirumalai dt. 9.10.96 (JT 1996 (9) SC 197). Hence, no time-limit has been specified for making appointment on compassionate grounds.

(b) and (c) The power to make compassionate appointment has been de-centralised and vests in respective Ministry/Department/Attached/Subordinate Office. As such, information in this regard is not centrally maintained.

Oil Exploration

6220. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exploration of oil and natural gas is done by Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) whether survey work in Bihar is being undertaken by a Geological Survey Party P.G.I. since 1986;

(c) whether the Rig Drilling Machine for the said work in Western Champaran in Bihar has been shifted to Sivsagar (Assam) due to which survey work has stopped;

(d) whether the Government to make Rig Drilling Machine available to Bihar;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both ONGC and OIL have carried out surveys in Bihar. OIL has undertaken a Remote Sensing Study and a High Resolution Aeromagnetic Study in Western Bihar with the assistance of Geological Survey of India.

(c) ONGC's drilling rig has been shifted out of Bihar

as all the six wells drilled by ONGC in Bihar have turned out to be dry.

(d) to (f) A rig may be brought in for taking up drilling operations as and when a drillable prospect is identified.

Civic Election

6221. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the constitutional amendment, civic elections be held in each State of country;

(b) if so, whether the civic elections have been held in the urban area of shillong in Meghalaya after the constitutional amendment came into force ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) when the civic election were last held in Shillong;

(e) whether it is proposed to be hold the elections in the coming months; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) As per Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992, elections to Urban Local Bodies are required to be held every five years, unless the Municipality is sooner dissolved under any Law for the time being in force. A statement indicating the election position of Urban Local Bodies in the country is attached.

(b) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Election to Urban Local Bodies

Sl. No.	State/UTs		Position about elections to ULBs.
1	2		3
STATES			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	Elections completed in all Municipal Bodies excepts 14 Municipalities and 2 Rajamundary Corporations. Elections to these local bodies likely to be held by the end of May, 1997.
2.	Arunachal Pd.	-	No Municipality exists.
3.	Assam	-	State Govt. has deciced to held election to 62 No. of Municipal Board & Town Committee in May, 1997. Election will not take place in respect of Goalpara Municipal Board and Bihpuria Town Committee as their term has not expired. Election to one ULB i.e. Tejpur Municipal Board have been held in September, 1996.
4.	Bihar	-	Provisions as per Constitution Amendments Act for reservation for seats were made in the State Municipal laws and Panchyati Raj Laws. The Patna High Court, however, has quashed the provisions for reservation for seats in relation to Panchyati Raj Institution. The State Govt. has filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court. The Advocate-General for the State has advised to wait for the decision of the Supreme Court on the above SLP. The State Govt. will conduct the elections immediately after the decision of the Supreme Court in the matter.
5.	Goa	-	Elections held.
6.	Gujarat	-	Elections held.
7.	Haryana	-	Elections held.
8.	Himachal Pd.	-	Elections held in all Municipalities except Shimla Municipal Corporation where elections are scheduled for June, 97.
9.	Karnataka	-	Elections held.
10.	Kerala	-	Elections held.